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¶ By the King.

A Proclamation for restraint of killing, dressing, and eating of Flesh in Lent, or on Fish daies, appointed by the Law, to be hereafter strictly obserued by all sorts of people.



Whereas, for the benefit and commodity of this Our Realme of England, as well in the maintenance of Our Navy and Shipping (a principall strength of this Iland) as for the sparing and increase of Flesh vittuall, divers good Lawes and Statutes haue beene prouided, for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fish dayes, which from time to time haue beene seconded and quickned by sundry Our Proclama- tions, and other Actes and Ordinances of State; And whereas, notwithstanding the many good prouisions heretofore had and made in that kinde, wee yet finde the inordinate liberty, now vsually taken by all sorts of people to kill, dress, and eate Flesh in the Lent season, and on other daies and times prohibited by Law, is become an euill of such inueterate growth, as it requireth more then ordinary care to supprese the same:

wee therefore much affecting the Reformation of this so great an euill (and enemy to the plentie of Our Kingdomes) haue thought fit esloones (and thus timely, the better to take away the excuse, and to prevent the prouisions of Flesh that vsually men make against the Lent season) To expresse Our selfe and Our Royall Commandement in this behalfe: Wherein, without any future declara- tion of Our pleasure in this kinde, wee shall expect and require from all Our Subiects, that due Notice be taken, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformitie be yeelded thereunto in all succeeding times.

And therefore wee doe straitly Charge and Command all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, to whom it may appertaine, carefully to prouide and see, that these Orders following may bee duely obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties, as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may be inflicted vpon the Offenders, for their contempt or neglect of Us and Our Lawes, whereof we shall shew Our selues most sensible.

And first, whereas wee finde, that the chiefeſt cause of these disorders hath growen from the Li- cences that haue beene granted to Butchers, to kill and biter Flesh contrary to Law, And that by Our Lawes, no Mayor, Justice of Peace, or other person of what degree or qualitie soever, can grant any Licence in this kinde, And that the Lords and others of Our Priuy Councell, do by Our direction forbeare to grant the ſame, or give way thereunto; Our will and pleasure is vpon the penalties prouided by Law, and ſuch further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as ſhall be thought meete, that no ſuch Licence ſhall be granted for the killing or biting of Flesh; And that no Butcher or other person whatſoever, doe by colour thereof, kill, biter, or put to ſale any Flesh con- trary to the Lawes eſtablished and prouided in that behalfe.

And for the avoiding of ſuch inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, That the Lord Mayor of Our Citiſ of London, and every other Officer and Justice of Peace, ſhall call before them, and ſend for any of the ſeruants of any Inholders, Vittuallers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Tauer- ners, and keepers of Ordinary tables, and ſuch others that biter vittuals, and to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Fleſh is, or hath beene, during the Lent ſeafon, or other daies prohi- bited by the Law, dressed, killed, bitered, or eaten in their houſes, which if they ſhall refuſe to doe, then to commit to prison the ſaid ſeruants ſo refuſing vpon their Oathes to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers, and Lauerners Within the City Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as he shall appoint meete for that pur-
pose; And shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of every of them in good summes of
Money, (viz.) One hundred pounds of the Principall, and their sureties thirty pounds apiece, to Our
Maiestie, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at other times prohibited, for any rea-
son; nor suffer it to bee eaten contrary to Lawe. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shall bee ta-
ken of the like parties upon like penalties, by the Justices of Peace of Our City of Westminster, and
Liberties thereof; and every of the said Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers, & others that come with victuall of Flesh out of the Countrey into the City,
by pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other
places in the Suburbes, Where Flesh may bee brought, to view and search, and to intercept the
same: And if any of those Watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then he to
be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may employ themselves to Sea with better encouragement then
before, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such store from time to time
as shall be expedient, aswell for the provision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasona-
ble rates; We Will that they take notice of this Our Commandement, and constant resolution for
obseruance of Lent, and Fish-dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as we thinke it fit, that every man should be a rule of order and abstinance in his
owne house, as well in respect of the publique, as of his private ease and benefit, So wee straitly
charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers,
& Lauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoeuer, vpon Friday
days, either in Lent or out of Lent; nor to suffer any meate to be then dressed, buttered, sold or eaten
in their houses, vpon paine of such punishment, as is due to thole that shall contemne Our Royall
Chare and Commandement.

And forasmuch as vpon further aduise and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dres-
sing of flesh is no sufficient remedy for the mischiefe, vniess there bee better care also taken to supprese
unlawfull and inordinate eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times pro-
hibited, wherewith Our subiects haue accustomed themselves, rather for delicacie then for necessity;
it is therefore Our Royall Will and pleasure, and accordingly wee doe hereby straitly prohibite and
command all Our Subiects of what degree or qualitie soeuer within this Our Realme, to eate any
sort of flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish-dayes, without
small Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocesse, or such other as by the Lawe haue
power to give Licence in that behalfe, (which wee Will and command shall bee sparingly granted,
in cases of necessitie onely) vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to bee proceeded against by
the Attorney Generall in Our Court of Starre-Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Com-
mandement, and vpon such further penaltie, as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may be
dictated on thole that shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

As these Orders are to be executed in Our City of London, & places neere to the same, so it is
our expresse pleasure and Commandement, That Our Justices of Peace in all Shires Within their
Counties, and all other Maiors, Baillifes, and chiefe Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties
Within their Precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like manner; and that no
privileg of Toleration, Fauour, or Connivencie be vsed by any Justice of Peace, or other Officer, con-
tra to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to
ratte the offence, as also the party himselfe offending, will answe the same at their uttermost pe-
nalty: Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall be hereafter severely executed
upon all offenders whatsoeuer.

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of Our City of London, the Justices of Al-
l their severall Circuits, the Maiors and chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes corpo-
rate, Justices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers Within the severall
Counties of this Our Realme, That they and every of them fully obey this Our Pleasure, and cause
the same to be compell'd to be obeyed and executed by others, as they will answe the contrary at their
uttermost perils.

And for the due execution of the premises in all other the Countys of this Our Realme, as well
as in Our Cities of London and Westminster, wee doe hereby straitly charge and command all
the Justices of Peace Within the same Countys, aswell within Liberties as without, That yeerely
they come hereafter before Lent, they cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders,

Cookes, Lauerners, Alehousekeepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers whatsoeuer, and to require and take of them to Our vse, severall Recognizances, with Sureties, for obseruation of the premises, (viz.) The principals in ten pounds, and their two Sureties in five pounds apiece: And if they shall refuse or neglect to enter into such Recognizances, That then the sayd Justices shall suppose such persons so refusing, from Victualling any more, and shall also cause them foorthwith to come bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vse, (viz.) The principals in twenty pounds, and their two Sureties in ten pounds apiece, not to Victuall or sell Beere or Ale from thenceforth; which if they shall refuse to doe, then the sayd Justices to commit to prison all such persons so refusing to enter into such Recognizance, vntill they shall submit themselves, and become bound, as aforesaid. And further for all such Inholders, Cookes, Lauerners, Alehousekeepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers as shall not appeare before the sayd Justices, as aforesaid. That they immedietly send forth their Warrants, or grant Processe against them and every of them so making default, to appear and answer their contempt at the next generall Sessions of the Peace.

And further for the more due punishment of Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, Lauerners, and such like, who shall forfeit their Recognizances by killing or dressing of flesh, or suffering it to be eaten in their houses in the Lent time, and other Fish daves: And to the end that the same may be as well taken in due forme of Law, as duely certified into Our Exchequer, We doe will and require all Justices of Peace, aswell within Liberties as without, That at such times as they shall meet within their severall Divisions, for the taking of such Recognizances, that they give notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, to attend them for that purpose. Of whom Wee will require a strict Accompt for the Legall taking and returning of the same Recognizances into Our sayd Exchequer: The sayd Clerkes of the Peace and their Deputies, taking for the making and certifying of the same Recognizances of all Inne-keepers, Lauerners, Cooks and Butchers, the Fee of two shillings six pence; And of all Alehousekeepers the fee of twelve pence, as limited to be taken by the Clerke of the Peace for Our County of Middlesex for every such Recognizance, and no more.

And lastly, for that the Fishmongers (vpon the obseruation of the aforesayd Orders) may perhaps take occasion thereby to enhance the prices, aswell of fresh as of Sea fish; Wee doe therefore heereby further charge and command all Fishmongers whatsoeuer, That they sell and bittir their fish at moderate and usuall Rates and prices: And that all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bailiffes, and other Our Officers as well within Liberties as without, to whom it shall appertaine, shall from time to time take such order with the sayd Fishmongers, that our Subjects bee not grieved by any such enhancement or encrease of prices vpon fish, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further punishment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Given at Whitehall the thirtieth day of Januari, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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